

NEWS

For Immediate Release

**United States
Department
of Agriculture**

Forest Service

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT PLAN PRESCRIBED BURN TO TIE INTO DOUBLE H THOMPSON UNIT BURN

MAGDALENA, NM – April 24, 2006 - The Cibola National Forest, Magdalena Ranger District is planning a prescribed burn totaling 40 acres, in conjunction with a 600 acre Torstenson Family Wildlife Center/Double H Ranch prescribed burn in the southeastern part of the Datil Mountains. The District plans to initiate the burn Tuesday, April 25, 2006, if burning conditions are favorable. Prescription parameters include having the appropriate weather forecast and the required personnel and equipment on hand, including identified contingency resources. Fire management crews will patrol for as long as necessary after ignition to ensure public safety.

The Prescribed Burn area is located on the Magdalena Ranger District approximately 35 miles northwest of Magdalena, New Mexico and about 25 miles northeast of Datil, New Mexico. The burn is located on USDA Forest Service lands adjacent to the Double H Ranch Thompson Unit prescribed burn area. The Forest Service prescribed burn covers approximately 40 acres. This burn is being conducted to benefit wildlife habitat and to reduce fire risk adjacent to the Torstenson Family Wildlife Centers/Double H Ranch in West –Central New Mexico. The dominant fuels in the area are Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and pinion/juniper with light to moderate grass cover.

This prescribed burn is a joint effort between the following agencies: the Torstenson Family, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the National Resource Conservation Service, the New Mexico State Game & Fish, the New Mexico State Forestry Division, and the USDA Forest Service. This project is part of a restoration effort to improve riparian zones and other habitat restoration projects.

For more information contact the Magdalena Ranger District at 505-854-2281.